

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-48 are now pending in this application. In the July 19, 2004 Office Action, claims 8, 9, 12, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2 285 556 to Fernandes et al. (hereinafter "*Fernandes*"). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* when coupled with Official Notice taken by the Examiner. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,984 to Reed et al. (hereinafter "*Reed*"). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,412 to Griffith et al. (hereinafter "*Griffith*"). Claims 13, 15, 17, 22, 23 and 45-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,453 to Haartsen (hereinafter "*Haartsen*"). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* in view of WO 01/58181 to Bhatia et al. (hereinafter "*Bhatia*"). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* and *Haartsen*, further in view of *Bhatia*. Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Fernandes* and *Haartsen*, in view of *Bhatia*.

Also in the July 19, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 24-44 were allowed and claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant has rewritten independent base claim 8 to include each recitation of objected to dependent claim 11. Accordingly, the applicant submits that independent claim 8 is allowable. The applicant has amended dependent claim 17 to reflect the amendment made to independent claim 8. Because claims 9-10 and 14-19 depend from allowable independent claim 8, dependent claims 9-10 and 14-19 are also allowable over the cited art. The applicant has canceled claims 11-13, 20-23, and 45-48. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD



Leonard J. Hope
Reg. No. 44,774

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Merchant & Gould
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

